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## EU-25

### Biotechnology

## EFSA says GM maize hybrids are safe, MON863 dossier passed to Council

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**Approved by:**

Norval Francis

U.S. Mission to the EU

**Prepared by:**

Karin Bendz

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**Report Highlights:**

The European Food Safety Authority has said that biotech maize hybrids are safe. The GMO Panel at the European Food Safety Authority has said that there were no concerns over the safety of the hybrids and that these are no different from their conventional counterparts with regard to their safety and nutritional properties.

The European Commission has officially passed the dossier with the proposal on approving the biotech maize MON863 to the Council. The council now has three month to reach a decision by qualified majority.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Brussels USEU [BE2]  
[E3]

**EFSA says GM maize hybrids are safe**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has said that biotech maize hybrids are safe. EFSA issued four opinions, including the one on MON863 x MON810 hybrid for which it had requested an additional 90-day rat study.

The GMO Panel said it had reviewed the study and concluded that neither this hybrid nor the other hybrids considered will have any adverse effects on human and animal health. This is the first time EFSA has looked at hybrids which cross the individual lines in order to combine different traits such as protection against different pests or herbicide resistance.

Monsanto provided feeding studies on two other hybrids: MON863 x NK603 and MON863 x MON810 x NK603. The GMO Panel said there were no concerns over the safety of the hybrids, and that these are no different from their conventional counterparts with regard to their safety and nutritional properties.

Both above mentioned maize hybrids are insect protected and glyphosphate tolerant for food and feed uses as well as import and processing.

There is an opinion on MON863 x MON810 for food and feed use under [Regulation 1829/2003](#), and a separate one on MON863 x MON810 for import and processing under part C of [Directive 2001/18/EC](#).

Since EFSA issued a positive risk assessment, these applications will be forwarded to the European Commission who has responsibility for risk management. The Commission will then present a proposal recommending the Member States (MS) to authorize the products. The Commission has three months to draft this proposal.

**MON863 dossier passed to the Council**

The European Commission has formally forwarded a proposal to the Council to approve the placing of the market of food and feed ingredients containing the biotech maize MON863 under the [Novel Food and Feed Regulation 258/97](#). This move comes after the Standing Committee on the Food Chain could not reach a clear opinion in May. The Council now has three months to reach a decision by qualified majority, or the authority for the approval passes to the Commission. Last month the Environment Ministers failed to reach a qualified majority on whether to authorize the placing on the market of MON863 under the [Deliberate Release Directive 2001/18](#). See GAIN E35126.

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E-mail: [AgUSEUBrussels@usda.gov](mailto:AgUSEUBrussels@usda.gov)

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E35126	<a href="#">Environmental Council votes no to lifting biotech bans</a>	06/29/05

E35091	<a href="#">Annual Biotechnology report</a>	05/13/05
E35074	<a href="#">Register of existing GM food and feed products published by the Commission</a>	04/21/05
E35044	<a href="#">Recent Biotech Developments in the EU</a>	03/03/05
E35008	<a href="#">The EU's Biotech Regulatory Process: Who's Being Protected</a>	01/13/05
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